Please place stamp here

# State Representative **Gigi Talcott**

Olympia, WA 98504-0600 P.O. Box 40600

# Rep. Gigi Talcott

If you ever want to get a hold of me, here's how...

### Phone

- FREE (Tax-payer supported) message service 1-800-562-6000
- LONG DISTANCE While the Washington State Legislature meets, January 14 to March 14 (360) 786-7890
  MY HOME (although I'll rarely be home until April),
  - (360) 564-9779



## Mail

PO Box 40600

In April, Rep Mike Carrell and I will move back to our Lakewood office at 10221 Olympia, WA 98504-0600

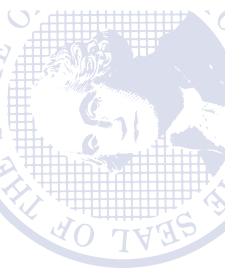
Bridgeport Way SW, 589-7296

E-Mail

talcott\_gi@leg.wa.gov

# invited.. You're

talk about the government problems to join Rep. Mike Carrell and me to and solutions you think are important. (Details inside).



Have Join me for a day in state Capitol? Call me for more infor-Olympia, February 27th 1-800-562-6000) Hotline is toll-free: mation (The Legislative been to your you ever

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P.O. Box 40600 **Gigi Talcott** 

State Representative

#### **Budget**

#### The state budget needs fixing...

No doubt you've heard or read something about the state's budget "crisis." These are not good times, but we've seen worse... and we **still have over twenty-one billion** (that's \$21,000,000,000) **taxpayer dollars** to serve the people in the state. Last year the final budget was overly optimistic and I feared it could lead to either significant cuts in vital state services or tax hikes - or both. I voted "no" on it. This year, with the staggering cuts in airline and technology businesses (among many others), inflated energy prices left over from the drought, and the devastation following Sept. 11; the state's budget is now over **\$1.2 billion in the red.** 

We must write a new balanced budget. It's a real challenge and I'm ready. I'll be working in Appropriations Committee four nights a week and probably Saturdays to get the job done. Here are the priorities I now see for our state government. Please take a look and then send me a note, make a free call or email me. I want to learn from you what's most important to you and your family or friends when you talk about state government.

#### You're invited . . .

to join Rep. Mike Carrell and me to discuss problems and solutions for our state government . . .

#### **February 23, 2002**

#### **Lakewood Town Hall Meeting**

9:00am to 10:00am Clover Park Technical College Building 31 4500 Steilacoom Blvd.

#### **Fircrest Town Hall Meeting**

11:00am to Noon Fircrest Community Center 555 Contra Costa

#### **Education**

#### Making sure every child in every school is a successful student...

Do you want **students tested** and schools held responsible to see that every one of the children in their school can **read, write and solve math problems?** I do. As a former Clover Park teacher I keep my students and teacher friends in mind as I work to make that dream a reality.

Last year after long, intense "accountability" discussions failed, I was encouraged when the House of Representatives lead budget writer, Rep. Helen Sommers (D-Seattle), came to me for advice. We worked together to: 1) give millions of dollars to help **identify problems and potential solutions** in schools where students are struggling, 2) reward students and teachers (actually parents, all staff and volunteers, too) where students are **successful** in meeting our state's **new, higher requirements,** and 3) post successful school programs on the state OSPI website (**www.k12.wa.us**) so parents, teachers, taxpayers and everyone who cares can **check it out.** I've been told it will be up and running soon. Everyone else agreed with the proposal. Now it's the law. Thank you, Rep. Sommers. I love working in the Legislature to solve problems!

Another concern many of us have talked about is how we can best protect students and staff in our schools. **I strongly support** the approach that encourages every community to provide **a safe, secure learning environment** where all students understand and live by traits such as respect, honesty and responsibility. **I oppose** statemandated systems of punishment and **court actions** that other "anti-bullying" proposals could encourage. I'd love to hear what you think.

I also support **expanding choices parents** have for their child. One new choice is an intensive program for high school drop-outs so they can live and learn on a military base. It's highly successful in many other states. With my personal experience as a military wife, I believe this new program will bring new **skills and opportunities to troubled teens.** It's called the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe (yes, the NG is capitalized for the National Guard). Sound good to you or do you want more information?

#### Survey

#### Please let me know what you're thinking...

Name:
Address:
E-mail:
Phone:
How do you think I'm doing as your representative in Olympia?
☐ Good, keep it up.
OK, but pay more attention to
☐ Weak, an area of improvement is:
this. It's a big help to me